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Freedom on the Border: The Seminole Maroons in Florida, the Indian Territory, Coahuila, and Texas by Kevin Mulroy

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and based on secondary materials. A bibliography of relevant works is provided at the end of the book. It, too, is organized into seven sections.

While the idea of an historical atlas seemed fairly straightforward to the authors, they spent seven years on this project. Some of the information they have provided is new. To find out how many places have been county seats they had to canvas newspapers and county records (Map 16). To determine where authors such as Luke Short, Wallace Stegner, Marshall Sprague, James Michener, Muriel Wolle, Allen Ginsberg, and many others enriched Colorado communities, they had to travel and read widely in western literature (Map 60). And to find evidence of neglected agricultural ghost towns, they had to track down leads offered by living inhabitants of more settled areas (Map 23).

Readers will find some maps they enjoy more than others, and they may criticize the authors' selection of certain topics and exclusion of others. This reviewer, for example, would like to have seen more maps on water projects, Bureau of Land Management lands, and cattle trails. A few maps showing Colorado's relationship to the Central Rockies would also have been useful; land grants (Map 10) and explorations (Map 9) would mean more if placed within a larger context. But in terms of how this volume will benefit teachers and others interested in Colorado, *Historical Atlas of Colorado* is most successful. The authors deserve praise for their accomplishment.

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Freedom on the Border: The Seminole Maroons in Florida, the Indian Territory, Coahuila, and Texas. By Kevin Mulroy. (Lubbock, Texas Tech University Press, 1993. xii + 266 pp. \$29)

Freedom on the Border chronicles a long saga of African resistance to slavery in North America, beginning with the runaways from English plantations who created a precarious freedom among the Seminoles in Florida. Spain hoped to forestall the territorial ambitions of the United States by alliances with the Seminoles and their black advisors, but despite the best efforts of them all, the United States eventually acquired Florida. Blacks and Seminoles were removed to the Indian Territory where the Africans were harassed by whites who could not envision them as free or Indians, by Creeks who wished to enslave them, and even by some of the Seminoles, who blamed them for their misfortunes. Finally, after

appeals for protection in Washington failed, the African, Juan Cavallo, and the Seminole, Wild Cat, led their followers into Mexico where that government granted them protection and land to homestead.

Kevin Mulroy demonstrates that the Seminole/maroon alliance was strained in Mexico and that throughout their common history the groups worked together best when under assault. The death of Wild Cat and the recognition of a separate Seminole nation eventually led many of the Seminoles to migrate back to Indian Territory. After the Civil War finally eradicated slavery, the maroons also returned and served the United States Army courageously as scouts in the Plains Indian Wars. It is a fascinating saga and one which changes our understanding of important periods and themes in United States history. Mulroy has made a real contribution in tracking the complex history of the maroon migrations and analyzing the maroon's difficult policy choices. The book also includes an interesting section of photographs, maps, and illustrations.

Some minor criticisms should not diminish the value of Mulroy's otherwise very satisfying narrative. Although he shows that those whom he designates Seminole Maroons maintained distinct settlements and "social distance" from their hosts in Florida, in the Indian territory, and in Mexico, his name choice subsumes African in Seminole. Moreover, Mulroy's contention that the maroons became "new Peoples" through "ethnogenesis" is not entirely convincing. Most scholars agree that West and Central Africans freely borrowed and incorporated cultural elements from others with whom they came in contact. Change, then, is to be expected. Moreover, Mulroy's interviews with descendants of the group point to the more remarkable persistence of many cultural practices despite their repeated dispersals and adaptations.

Another weakness lies in Mulroy's dependence on English-language sources for the periods in which the maroons lived among the Spaniards and Mexicans. This was also a flaw in the pioneering work of Kenneth Wiggins Porter and others like John Mahon who covered the Seminole Wars in Florida. A great work is still waiting to be done on the early Seminoles if someone will tackle the rich Spanish documents in the East Florida Papers, which are held at the Library of Congress and in various microfilm collections. There may be equally rich materials in Mexico for a group that received land grants and other subsidies and gave Mexico valuable military service.

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